



Spring 2017

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**SIERRA
CLUB**

The Pelican Sierra Club Florida

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SIERRA CLUB

INSIDE: 2017 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW



Some 400,000 marched in 2014 in the People's Climate March in New York City. On April 29, marches will take place in Washington D.C. and cities across the country./ Photo by Jim Dougherty

Together We Must Fight For Change

Donald Trump is preparing an all-out assault on the laws that protect our clean air, our clean water, our health, and the safety of our communities. But when we work together, our voices can add up - and the Trump administration will have no choice but to listen.

Following is an excerpt from the January 23 blog of Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. Inspiring words in troubled times!

“In the presidential election of 1912, Roosevelt decided to run as a Progressive against both the Republican incumbent, Taft, and the Democratic nominee, Woodrow Wilson. How weird was that? As a result, Wilson was elected with 41.8 percent of the popular vote.

Now we find ourselves forced to deal with the outcome of an even more bizarre election. Presi-

(Continued on page 2)

Join the Climate March

Plan to march for the environment and social justice on April 29 at the People's Climate March. The main event will be in Washington D.C. but marches are being planned in cities across the country. Watch your e-mail and posts on Sierra Club Facebook and Twitter to keep updated on marches near you.

We all need to get involved because attacks against our clean air, water, climate, public lands, and everything else will potentially come quickly and from all sides, we will need to be ready to act. Join a local rapid response team, and tell us how you want to get involved. We'll get in touch with how to take the next step locally. Go to sc.org/RR and sign up.

Help Us Fight the Good Fight!

Sierra Club members should be watching their mail during March when the Florida Chapter's annual fundraising appeal letter will arrive. Please donate in response to this once-a-year solicitation. The funds collected will help the Florida chapter and our 16 groups in the fight to protect, conserve and restore our state's special places and wildlife. **Every dollar you give to the Florida Chapter in March will be spent right here in Florida.**



With your donations, we promise to fight these threats:

- Florida black bear hunting and down-listing protections for West Indian manatees.
- Fracking and drilling for oil and gas, as well as running more pipelines across Florida.
- Unfettered suburban sprawl due to diminished regulation and less planning coordination.

Your money will help us as we continue to be watchdogs for Florida's fragile environment through supporting legislative advocates in Tallahassee and continuing legal efforts to challenge harmful permitting and legislation that weakens environmental protections and much more.

Please fill out the contribution form in the appeal letter or send your contribution checks made out to **Sierra Club Florida Chapter** and mail to Sierra Club, 1990 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33712. To pay with a credit card, please click our DONATE button online at sierraclub.org/florida or call Chapter Treasurer Tom Larson at (904) 247-1876.

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our advocacy and lobbying efforts.

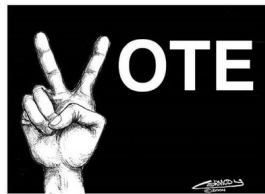
National Sierra Club Election Coming

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In early March, those eligible to vote (Regular and Life members) will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

Introductory members (i.e., new members who have not renewed their Club membership prior to January 31, 2017) are not eligible to vote.

The Board of Directors sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club.

To learn more about the candidates, please visit the Club's election website at www.sierraclub.org/board/election. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.



Resist with Sierra Club

(Continued from page 1)

dent Donald Trump and his administration represent the biggest imaginable challenge to our mission and to our values. Literally minutes into his presidency, he released an "America First" energy plan that reads like a polluter's wish list. It will make our air and water dirtier, our climate and international relations more unstable, and our kids sicker.

Clearly, we have some tough fights ahead and, realistically, we aren't going to win all of them. But we've been doing this for almost 125 years. We will survive President Trump. In fact, we'll do a lot more than survive. **We will resist** -- in the courts, in the states, in Congress, and in the marketplace. And regardless of how many battles we win or lose, both we and the movement that we're a part of will emerge stronger in the end.

He doesn't realize it, but President Trump is already building a wall -- and he's the one who's paying for it. It's a wall of resistance the likes of which he, his supporters, and his political allies have never seen before. What unites that resistance is not just our opposition to Trump, but our determination to build a positive, equitable, and inclusive society.

For the Sierra Club, the bridges and bonds we forge with our allies are an incredible opportunity. ... We've got a lot to do. The first 100 days of Trump's administration will be crucial. Help us resist! Visit our Resist Command Center at www.addup.org/resist to discover the latest and most effective ways you can take action.

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Marcia Biggs, Editor

The Pelican is published by Sierra Club Florida and mailed to Sierra Club Florida members. Annual membership dues include \$1 for the Pelican newsletter. Address all inquiries to Sierra Club Florida, 1990 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 or e-mail marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org

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St. Pete 'Ready for 100' a Model of Success

In fall of 2015, the Clean Power Plan and the Paris Climate Conference ushered in a new era of global action in the growing effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. Seeing the need for leadership, the Sierra Club launched Ready for 100 - a national campaign to drive at least 100 cities in the U.S. to commit to achieving 100% renewable energy by 2050.

The Suncoast Group rebranded Ready for 100 as 100% St. Pete and developed a campaign that built on the city's history and recent leadership. After much hard work, by the end of 2016, the city of St. Petersburg jumped on board as the first city in Florida to make this commitment. The first "Green City" in Florida, St. Petersburg established an ambitious net-zero energy goal with an Executive Order from Mayor Rick Kriseman. While a 100% renewable energy city draws all of its electricity from naturally replenishing sources, a net-zero energy city produces enough emission-free energy to meet all of its needs.

This order also defined other aggressive sustainability goals for St. Petersburg, such as net-zero waste, the establishment of an Office of Sustainability, and becoming a certified STAR Community (a national sustainability rating program).

After hiring local consultants Emily Gorman and James Scott to create and manage 100% St. Pete, the Suncoast Group began building awareness and support around renewable energy. Building partnerships



Kassi Rohrbach, Associate Director of Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign, speaks at the press conference with University of South Florida St. Pete Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska and St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman, to announce their commitments to 100% renewable energy. /Photo by Marcia Biggs

with city leaders, institutions and activist groups across the city and Tampa Bay led to successful public events like Hands Across the Sand and the St. Pete Pride Parade.

In working to develop a viable model for the renewable energy transition and future campaigns in Florida, 100% St. Pete also raised awareness through a solar cooperative model. FLSun's St. Pete Solar Co-op works with area residents to switch to solar energy affordably.

100% St. Pete has also championed climate, resiliency and sustainability planning. Partially as a result, the City earmarked BP

settlement funds for an Integrated Sustainability Action Plan.

Looking toward 2017 and beyond, the Suncoast Sierra Club aims to promote broad community engagement in renewable energy, climate change awareness and other sustainable initiatives throughout Pinellas County.

The Florida Chapter plans to continue to move forward with the Ready for 100 campaign in Miami, using the St. Petersburg experience as a model.

Emily Gorman contributed to this article.

Struggling Silver Springs Gets a Reprieve - For Now

Sleepy Creek Lands LLC in Marion County (formerly known as Adena Springs Ranch) and its Canadian billionaire owner are seeking consumptive use permits from the St. Johns River Water Management District for a massive 30,000-acre cattle operation located adjacent to Silver Springs. A public rally in protest was held January 10 at SJRWMD headquarters in Palatka with members of the Suwannee-St. Johns and Northeast groups leading the charge.

The day before, SJRWMD pulled the permit request from a meeting agenda after

environmental groups filed a petition asking that the issue be turned over to an administration law judge for review.

The landowner is requesting to pump an additional 1.22 million gallons per day of groundwater from the aquifer. The legal challenge comes on the heels of a late December water district staff announcement that it is recommending that the district's governing board approve the cattle operation's additional water pumping rights. Two years ago, the water district staff had recommended the board deny a slightly more

modest pumping request of 1.12 million gallons per day.

Staffers said the reversal is based on better computer modeling and better data that was recently collected and analyzed. They said the additional pumping would have minimal impact on Silver Springs and the Silver River. Sierra Club and other environmental groups feel the increased pumping would be detrimental to a river and spring that is already struggling with reduced flow and algae problems. Check out floridaspringsinstitute.org for updates.

2017 Legislative Preview

By Dave Cullen

Florida Sierra Club Legislative Lobbyist

The first day of Florida's legislative session starts March 7, but plenty has been happening since Election Day. Term limits have resulted in major turnover; there are 66 new legislators (46 in the House and 20 in the Senate). The Fair Districts amendment has also had an impact. Democrats picked up one seat in the Senate (now 25 Rs and 15 Ds), and they picked up two seats in the House for a count of 41 Ds and 79 Rs.

This is significant because the minority caucus now has more than one-third of the seats in each chamber which gives them more procedural options under the rules. The Congressional races for the US House resulted in a Democratic gain of 1 seat from the 2014 election for a breakdown of 11 Ds and 16 Rs. By comparison, in 2010 the balance was 19Rs and 6 Ds.

Environmental issues should not be partisan – remember President Nixon created the EPA. Unfortunately, the public good has succumbed to the imperatives of getting elected – which means we have to make good environmental policy essential for getting votes. (It's not too early to start getting ready for 2018.)

Election Day also saw a tremendous victory for the environment in the defeat of the bad utility-backed solar amendment. Congratulations to all of you who worked so hard for that important win! (See info on SB 90 below.)

There are new presiding officers of the Florida House and Senate. Senate President Negron's priorities include purchasing land in the Everglades Agricultural Area to be used for a 60,000-acre reservoir to reduce the release of water from Lake Okeechobee that has

Stay Informed

Watch for e-mail alerts when important environmental issues are coming up. You can receive alerts via e-mail by joining the Sierra Club's FLORIDA REPORT by sending a request to be included on the listserve at cullenasea@aol.com

Join the Fight

Not a Sierra Club member? Join or renew your membership to receive our e-mails on the many actions Sierra Club is taking to resist the anti-environmental attacks by the Trump administration.

Your help is needed now more than ever! Go to sierraclub.org to sign petitions, renew your membership and take action. Be sure to watch for e-mails and join the Facebook page of your regional group to keep abreast of programs, protests and political meetings. To find your regional group, go to sierraclub.org/florida/groups



caused toxic algal blooms in his district which includes the Indian River Lagoon, and also on the West Coast in the Caloosahatchee and its estuary. A reservoir south of Lake O will also allow water to flow south where it will rehydrate the Everglades, help recharge the Biscayne Aquifer that 8 million people depend on, and bring clean, fresh water to Florida Bay that will dilute the hypersalinity killing off the seagrass beds.

Some important bills to Sierra and the environment will be:

Fracking Ban: SB 442 / HB 451 Advanced Well Stimulation by Sen. Dana Young (R – Hillsborough) / Rep. Mike Miller (R-Orange) and Rep. Janet Cruz (D-Hillsborough). These bills would ban all types of fracking statewide, including acid matrix stimulation, and have bipartisan support as shown by their co-sponsors Sens. Perry, Farmer, Latvala, and Stewart and Reps. Clemons and C. Watson. Other good fracking ban bills include HB 35 by Rep. Jenne (D-Broward), SB 98 by Sen. Farmer (D-Broward), and SJR 108 a proposed Constitutional amendment to

ban fracking, also by Sen. Farmer.

As of this writing, no bad fracking bill has been filed, but don't let down your guard.

Renewable Energy SB 90 Renewable Energy Source Devices by Sen. Brandes (R-Pinellas) is a bill to implement the constitutional amendment approved by voters on August 30, 2016 exempting renewable energy devices like solar panels, wind, or geothermal from being assessed for the purpose of calculating property taxes. They would also be exempt from the tangible personal property tax. House Majority Leader Rep. Ray Rodrigues (R-Lee) is expected to file the companion bill, but nothing is filed yet. Sierra is working to pass this implementing bill which will encourage more families to convert to solar and reduce the use of fossil fuels.

SB 456 Public Utilities by Sen. Rodriguez (D- Miami-Dade) exempts producers of renewable solar-based energy from being defined as a "public utility" when they sell the energy to customers on the same property the solar energy is

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produced. This exempts them from regulation from the Public Service Commission and could increase the use of solar energy for shopping malls, apartment complexes, and the like.

Water bill fixes Sierra Club Florida, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Springs Council continue to work on improving last year's big water bill and have drafted a package of amendments to tighten up loopholes, promote water conservation, and correct some easily fixed issues in statute such as preventing industrial wastewater disposal facilities, new septic tank installations, and CAFOs from being established on lands most vulnerable to conveying pollution to an Outstanding Florida Spring. Sen. Farmer will carry the bill in the Senate and Rep. Jenne is helping us find a House sponsor.

Recycling SB 162 / HB 93 Disposable Plastic Bags by Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez (D-Miami-Dade) / Rep. David Richardson (D-Miami-Dade) These bills would establish a pilot program to allow coastal communities with fewer than 100,000 residents to regulate plastic bags as long as they do not impose fees or taxes. The pilot program would run for 1 ½ years, and the results would be available to inform the legislature regarding rescinding the current preemption of local control in this area.

Everglades land purchase for reservoir SB 10 Water Resources by Sen. Bradley (R-Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, Suwannee, Union counties and part of Marion) is intended to accomplish President Negron's plan for a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee.

Environmental Regulation SB 198 Environmental Regulation Commission by Sen. Stewart (D-Orange) would require vacancies on the Envi-

ronmental Regulatory Commission to be filled within 90 days and requires a supermajority of 5 members out of 7 to approve changes to standards for air pollution, water quality standards and numerous others. The bill was filed because of the ERC's approval of new weaker Human Health Toxicity Standards when there were two longstanding vacancies on the board, including the one for an environmental representative. The changes were approved by a 3-2 vote.

Amendment 1 Related bills A number of bills have been filed that use Amendment 1 funds for various purposes. Some of these are:

SB 10 – Sen. Bradley's bill for the reservoir south of the Lake

SB 112 Flood Hazard Mitigation by Sen. Brandes to provide up to \$50M for mitigation of flood prone areas

SB 230 Nonnative Animals by Sen. Artiles would provide \$600,000 over two years to the FWC to contract hunting teams to kill tegu lizards, a variety of pythons, the green anaconda, and Nile monitors on state lands under the FWC, and to enter into memorandum of agreement with other government entities to carry out hunts on their properties.

SB 234 Land Acquisition Trust Fund by Sen. Bradley devoting \$35 million to the St. Johns River and its tributaries or the Keystone Heights Lake Region

HB 551 Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems by Rep. Charlie Stone (R-Levy and part of Marion) would devote a minimum of \$20 million to retrofitting septic systems, converting septic to sewer, and for muck dredging and stormwater improvements in the Indian River Lagoon area. The bill also requires DEP to develop septic system remediation plans.

In evaluating the merits of these or any bill using Amendment 1 funds, our

attorneys recommend using the following yardstick:

Amendment 1 funds can be used to acquire, improve, restore, and manage conservation and recreation lands. They are not funds for programs with environmental benefits - it must be one of those four categories of expenditure and it has to be on conservation and recreation lands.

Bears HB 491 Florida Black Bears by Rep. Amy Mercado (D-Orange) would preserve bear habitat, establish a source of funding for Bear-resistant trash containers, limit activities that would reduce natural food sources for bears such as saw palmetto berries and acorns, and establish a moratorium on recreational bear hunting until 2027 while a population trend study is done.

Septic Tanks HB 285 Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems by Rep. Randy Fine (R- Brevard) requires that onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems be inspected by certified professionals at point of sale in real estate transactions

Public Notification of Spills SB 532 Public Notification of Pollution by Sen. Galvano (R-Manatee and part of Hillsborough) Requires owners or operators of facilities to inform the Department of Environmental Protection within 24 hours of the release of a substance listed by DEP as reportable.

DEP is then required within 24 hours to publish that information on its website and to send out email notification to the public, local health departments, local governments, and news media subscribing to the notification list serve. This bill was spurred by the Mosaic sinkhole that released radioactivity into the groundwater.

Fight threats to decrease or abolish current Florida environmental protections at Advocacy Day March 22 in Tallahassee. See Page 6 for more information,

Around the State



Suncoast Sierra members, accompanied by four electric vehicles, marched in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on Jan. 16 in downtown St. Petersburg. After the parade, the group exhibited at a Family Fun Day.



In "Walk for Water, Speak for Springs" on January 28, water protectors gathered in Dunnellon to oppose the construction of the Sabal Trail Pipeline /Photo by Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson

Sierra Club Florida celebrated the closing of another coal-fired power plant. Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) retired the Cedar Bay Generating Plant, a 250-megawatt coal-fired facility located in Jacksonville. We are also celebrating the defeat of the ROGG (River of Grass Greenway), a paved hike and bike trail from Naples to Miami that would have destroyed wetlands and crossed sacred Native American lands.

More than 30 residents of Lake Okeechobee's Glades Communities gathered for the "Stop The Burn! Go Green Harvest!" Community Workshop on December 3 in Belle Glade. Sierra organizer **Patrick Ferguson** of the Stop Sugar Field Burning Campaign spoke about the Club's work to end the harmful, outdated practice of pre-harvest sugarcane burning and switch to the burn-free, modern alternative of "green harvesting."

Rally in Tally March 22

Sierra Club Florida is joining ReThink Energy Florida, Environment Florida, Food and Water Watch-Florida, Floridians Against Fracking, Florida Conservation Voters, Physicians for Social Responsibility and other groups for an Advocacy Day on March 22 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Capitol in Tallahassee. We will be calling on our legislators to protect Florida's springs, support renewable energy, and ban fracking! A rally and press conference will be held, followed by visits to our legislators.

Transportation is being planned from several cities across the state and we will provide training on the bus and the evening before so you have the skills you need to effectively advocate. Check with your group for carpools and sharing lodging. For more information and to register, please go to rethinkenergyflorida.org/reclaiming_florida_s_future

The Ancient Islands Group partnered with the Heartland Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society on



January 21 in a Florida Arbor Day Celebration planting of 1,000 bald cypress saplings in the floodplain of Lake Hancock at the Circle B Bar Reserve in Lakeland. Nearly 100 volunteers attended; the new trees build upon 500 that were planted last year.

Florida Sierra Club organizer **Diana Umpierre** has been announced the new president of the International Dark Sky Association. Congrats, Diana!

Alyssa Cadwalader, who serves on the executive committee of the Loxahatchee Group, has been elected to the Florida Chapter Executive Committee.



Cadwalader

The Sierra Club and the environment lost two dedicated advocates in 2016, Greater Charlotte Harbor Group's founding member and political chair **Ruth Bromberg** and former Broward Group Chair **Tanya Tweeton**.

Sabal Trail: Standing Up Against Big Oil & Gas

Protests, marches, rallies and public outcry across Florida in opposition to Sabal Trail Pipeline are gaining national attention with Sierra Club firmly in the trenches. Opposition demonstrations have been held at several cities across the state including the Capitol in Tallahassee, and at Suwannee River State Park and Dunnellon where construction is underway to cross directly beneath the Suwannee and Withlacoochee rivers.

The fight against the 515-mile pipeline that will transport fracked natural gas across 704 water bodies in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida will head to a hearing in U.S. District Court of Appeals in Washington D.C. on April 18. This pipeline is part of the bigger Southeast Market Pipeline Project connecting to four other pipelines totaling 685.5 miles in length. In Florida, some 1.1 billion cubic feet of fracked gas a day will travel across 15 counties: Alachua, Gilchrist, Suwannee, Levy, Hamilton, Marion, Citrus, Lake, Osceola, Sumter, Okeechobee, Orange, Polk, St. Lucie and Martin.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is responsible for regulating and permitting these pipelines. Sierra Club, Flint Riverkeeper and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper filed a lawsuit alleging FERC did not analyze the climate impacts of the project and did not research less environmentally destructive routes and impacts on environmental justice communities. Our suit challenges FERC's approval of the entire Southeast Market Pipeline.

The consortium of companies behind the project is Spectra Energy of Houston, NextEra Energy of Juno Beach (the parent company of Florida Power and Light) and Duke Energy. Sierra Club, joined by many water protecting groups such as Gulf Restoration Network, Our Santa Fe River, WWALS, Suwannee Riverkeepers and Florida Defenders of the Environment, has been actively trying to stop the construction of Sabal Trail. But taking on the energy empires has been challenging.

The Sierra Club, along with other groups, requested that the Army Corps of Engineers do an Environmental Impact Study as the construction will significantly impact the fragile karst terrain, springs and the Floridan



Here the pipeline is preparing to be laid where it will go under the Suwannee River.

© Lynne V Buchanan



Sabal Trail Pipeline extends through Florida, Georgia and Alabama. The final segment in Florida is nearly finished.

Aquifer. The Army Corp denied the request. The horizontal boring that they are doing under the rivers has caused sinkholes and inadvertent releases of drilling mud; more problems are expected.

Sierra Club's Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson has been at the forefront of the fight to stop Sabal Trail as an organizer, activist and powerful speaker against the pipeline.

"Citizens involvement is at an unprecedented all-time high throughout every corner of Florida," says Malwitz-Jipson, "The overwhelming outcry is to cease and desist

To see photos of the construction and impacts of the pipeline, go to photographer Lynne Buchanan's blog at <http://www.lynnbuchanan.com/blog/>

To learn more about how you can get involved, contact Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, merrilee.malwitz-jipson@sierraclub.org and Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/sierraclubfl](https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubfl)

this disruptive boondoggle. Despite all of the public work to get the word out on the terrible fossil fuel project, it is still proceeding at a rapid fire speed."

There are mounting permit violations and non-compliance issues with the construction of this project, she adds. The pending lawsuit is hope for optimism.

This pipeline is a huge threat to the Floridan Aquifer which provides more than 60% of our of fresh drinking water supply. The construction of the pipeline is destroying burrows of gopher tortoises, a keystone species whose burrows create habitat for more than 300 other species.

"The pipeline is not only destructive to our rural communities and wildlife corridors, it is also an energy infrastructure project that continues the proliferation of dangerous fracking wells up north in the shale formations," says Malwitz-Jipson.

Sierra Club Florida
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Mining impacts a constant threat to environment

The Sierra Club Florida Phosphate Committee, various leaders and Sierra members have been very active in mining issues across the state. A roundup of current news:

■ The Phosphate Committee sent comments to the FDEP and ACOE opposing Mosaic's application for an 18,000-acre mine in DeSoto County and an application for a 7,500-acre mine in Hardee County. They also sent a letter to FDEP questioning their decision to allow Mosaic's release of diluted contaminated water from the New Wales sinkhole into the Alafia River. The Committee has been monitoring FDEP Daily Reports with test results for wells on or near Mosaic's New Wales facility where the massive sinkhole occurred last summer.

■ In January, a formal statement was submitted to Manatee BOCC opposing Mosaic's request to approve its Master Mining Plan and rezone 3,596 acres of their Wingate East property for phosphate mining citing destruction of wetlands and the threat of



Phosphate mining in Polk County
/Photo by Jacki Lopez

ecological damage. A decision was expected in mid-February.

■ The Union County BOCC voted unanimously to approve a one-year moratorium on mine permit applications. This extends a previous one-year moratorium and was in response to a proposed 10,775-acre phosphate mine bordering the Santa Fe River, an Outstanding Florida Waterway.

Thanks to Suwannee St. Johns group for doggedly working on this issue.

■ The Adventure Coast Committee of the Suncoast and Tampa Bay groups is working to stop the expansion of a limerock mine on 294 acres in North Central Pasco County.

The mine is within a half mile of a wellfield that supplies millions of gallons of water to Pinellas County every day and is part of the Weeki Wachee springshed.

Phosphate Committee Chair Bev Griffiths encourages all members who live near mining operations to get involved. "It is the responsibility of our local Sierra Club Groups where mining occurs to be vigilant," she says.

"These Groups have done a great job of mobilizing Club members and concerned citizens to take action--to write, call, and attend county workshops and land use meetings. It is important to our democracy that elected officials and government appointees hear from citizens."